by the parts which they have In common ; and as he advances he observes other resemblances less obvious, till he rises to the highest possible generalizations. At the same time, it should be remembered that these general facts—the forms and develop-ments of. organic bodies, and their general resemblances whereby they are classified—all originate in particular properties ot matter, organized and unorganized, and in the skilful arrange-ments that have been made by the Creator. While the mere student of natural history does not feel that it is his province to inquire into such causes, others will not be prevented from pur-suing the investigation this length,, and from endeavouring to determine the mechanical, chemical, and organic properties by which life is sustained; and the disclosures, we are persuaded, if not so grand, will in many respects be more wonderful than those which have been revealed in the study of the planetary System.

It appears, then, that in investigating the works of nature, our object may be to refer a given phenomenon to a *general rule, or to refer it to a cause.* These inquiries differ from each other, though they are often confounded. In the one the inquirer is seeking after a class of facts, and in the other, after what produced these facts; in the one he discovers resemblances, in the other he reaches power or property. The latter, if pro-secuted sufficiently far, will lead to the discovery of a great First Cause, and the former is ever furnishing new illustrations of the wisdom residing in that Cause.

But this is not the precise end which we have been seeking to reach by means of this induction; we think that wo have satisfactorily established two very important truths.

The first is, that the ivories of God are full of general fads or laws—most of them obvious to all ivho taJce the pains io inquire into them, and capable of being discovered

independently
of any examination of their causes.

The second is, that these general laios are the rcsuU of a number of arrangements. The very operation of a cause,, wo have seen, implies the presence of two or more bodies in a certain relation to each other; but a general fact implies more —it implies an adjustment of the causes with the view of yielding such general results. <*•

These truths are so important that they demand some farther illustration. Conceive a mariner observing, an his vesHcl sails